



42nd Infantry Division - Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 News

# DISPATCH

Volume 9

April 17, 2005

## Three Task Force Liberty Soldiers receive Bronze Star medals

Story and photo by Spec. Cathy Alberto  
116th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq - On April 1, three 116<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team Soldiers were awarded Bronze Star Medals for their acts of heroism in Iraq.

Spc. Josiah Jurich, Sgt. Charles Jordan, and Staff Sgt. Marvin Albert II were presented the Bronze Star by Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, commander of the 116<sup>th</sup> BCT. All three Soldiers are from Task Force 3-116 Armor Headquarters Company.

On the morning of January 13, all three rendered life saving treatment to a Soldier who was badly injured when his vehicle struck a land mine. According to the award recommendation, their quick thinking saved not only his arm, but his life as well.

According to reports, Staff Sgt. Albert was instrumental in getting the wounded Soldier out of the truck so he could administer intravenous fluids and continue treating for shock. Staff Sgt. Albert spot checked the Soldier for other injuries and adjusted the security perimeter around the scene so that it was evenly covered on all sides.

Sgt. Jordan and Spc. Jurich controlled the bleeding from a severed artery and worked

together to stem the bleeding within 10 minutes with numerous pressure dressings.

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after December 6, 1941, distinguishes himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The reverse side of the medal has the inscription "HEROIC OR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT" and a space for the name of the recipient to be engraved.

"[Their] decisive actions cut the 'golden hour' of life-saving care in half and saved [the Soldier's] life," wrote TF 3-116 Platoon Leader 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Max Arvidson in the citation for the awards.

The 116 BCT was mobilized in support of the global war on terrorism in June 2004. The unit's multi-faceted mission in Iraq includes security training and operations, aiding the Iraqi government, supporting economic and infrastructure development, and facilitating communications.



*Spc. Josiah Jurich, Sgt. Charles Jordan and Staff Sgt. Marvin Albert II stand in front of formation at Forward Operation Base Warrior, Iraq, April 1 as they are commended on a superb quick reaction on saving another soldiers life.*

The 116 BCT includes headquarters and staff sections, two armor battalions, a mechanized infantry battalion, a support battalion, a field artillery battalion, an engineer battalion, and various intelligence, signal, and specialized units. The 116 BCT is one of several Army National Guard units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.



*Staff Sgt. Ward Eckenstein, a member of the 116<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team's TF 1-163*

*Infantry, stands beside a pup on the banks of the Tigris River in Iraq. This photo, named 'A Boy and His Dog' by the B company commander, elicits memories of home for some of the soldiers of the Montana-based unit. (Photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chad Schopp, B Co., TF 1-163 Infantry)*

## Iraqi bomb company efforts save lives

By Spec. Lane  
1BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DAGGER, Tikrit, Iraq -- The 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi army Brigade's bomb company is working hard to make the streets safer for the citizens of Iraq.

What started from a small group of Iraqi soldiers grew into a company of six officers and over 80 soldiers, said Brig. Gen. Abdul Jabar Salin Kebiaa, 30<sup>th</sup> IA Bde commander.

The bomb company proved itself worthy during the elections, Jabar said.

"In spite of the small size of the company, they led a big operation during the election," Jabar said. "The election was successful, with the company protecting the polling center."

The election was one of the company's many successes since its activation Jan. 1, Qais said.

"Our company has finished so many duties in spite of the short time since its establishment," he said. "This company has achieved six perfect training stages in cooperation with friendly forces. Over 100 bombs and (improvised explosive devices) have been cleared and more than a thousand meters of road have been protected and fenced."

Coalition Forces leaders, who work with the IA, see progress and growth in the future, and are confident in the IA's abilities to run the show.

"These guys are doing a great job," said Maj. Kelly Donna, 1<sup>st</sup> BCT military transition team officer-in-charge. "We see progress everyday, and they are great guys to work with. I would feel comfortable staying out here with these guys."

Iraqi army leaders see much growth in the future too, Qias said.

The growth of the bomb company was capped off when a new headquarters building was dedicated in Tikrit on April 10.

With the growing size of the company, it desperately needed a headquarters from which it could more efficiently run its operation, said Maj. Qais Abdul Gadir, the bomb company commander.

"This center will enable the personnel of our company to do their duties under the supervision of the engineering units of the Coalition Forces," Qais said.

"We are preparing more headquarters in Tikrit, Bayji, Samarra, Balad, Ad Dawr and Ad Dhuluiyah," he said.

Qias said he feels his company must be doing well because it's beginning to draw attention from anti-Iraqi forces.

"Our company is a big target for the terrorists," Qais said. "We know this because so many officers and soldiers have been wounded and many vehicles destroyed."

Jabar said he hopes for continued support from Coalition Forces to enable more growth of his forces. This is the only way he can guarantee the continued safety and stability of the Iraqi people in his area of operations, he added.

## Why is this Man Smiling?

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Public Affairs

FORWARDING OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq - Steven Grady goes about his business here smiling at, laughing with, complimenting and sometimes hugging people. They respond in kind, and it's clear they find his friendly, breezy manner a breath of fresh air.

But what isn't clear, and never betrayed by Grady's pleasant ways, is that he is on something of a personal mission.

"My creed is to help make someone smile, everyday," he said. "If I can make a difference, not necessarily a big difference, in someone's life, I feel I've been successful."

As the Morale, Welfare and Recreation supervisor at Forwarding Operating Base (FOB) Danger, Grady is in a unique position to do that. Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Grady said, provides for the physical and mental welfare of the Soldiers.

"We give them the best product we can give them," Grady said.

This product includes organized sports like 10-kilometer runs and volleyball tournaments for Soldiers' physical welfare, and movies and books for Soldiers' mental welfare. Greeting people is also a product he provides, Grady said.

"I'm a people person," Grady said. "To come here and hug someone, pay them a compliment, and make them feel better -- that's what MWR is all about."

Grady, a former high school football coach from Kingstreet, S.C., considers all the Soldiers he serves heroes.

"I like serving Soldiers," he said in his southern drawl. "I'm humbled to get up everyday and serve ya'll."

He speaks reverently about the Soldiers he's met -- like Soldiers in Baqubah, who lived and worked in a high-security status, or, as Grady puts it, "locked and loaded everyday." Grady said he has been shot at, and in Baqubah, he underwent mortar attacks for 40 of the 42 days he spent there. The experience of meeting Soldiers, being under fire and seeing the Iraqi people have given him a fresh perspective, he said.

"Things I valued materially don't amount to a hill of beans here," Grady said. "I'm very fortunate and blessed to be here, because I get a lot of satisfaction out of serving."

Grady said his job overseas helped him best a personal crisis at home. He felt called, he said, to work for Soldiers deployed to Iraq.

"When this opportunity presented itself," Grady said, "I felt it was what I'm supposed to do."

Grady works for Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) which is contracted to run MWR facilities. His job takes him around the FOB, working with military leadership on the Soldiers behalf, and addressing problems, which he calls "putting out fires."

"That's what supervisors do," he said with smile.

Smiles, it seems, are the currency Grady trades in. People call him 'coach' and stop what they're doing to talk with him. His rounds about the FOB can only be described as a morale patrol, as he asks people he meets how they're doing, and earnestly awaits their answers.

"A lot of times people don't ask each other how they feel," Grady said. "You have to take time to give people your attention, because they need it."

Grady has been a KBR employee since August 2004, and worked at FOB Speicher and FOB Warhorse. "Helping soldiers is my way of giving back to the United States," he said.



Steven Grady (known to most on FOB Danger as Coach) stops by to brighten the day for Col. Joan Sullivan. Col. Sullivan is the TF Liberty and 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Surgeon.